

OPINIONS OF THE WHIGS, AND THE CHARACTER OF THE WHIGS, GIVEN BY WHIGS THEMSELVES.

"Out of thy own mouth will I condemn thee."

John Quincy Adams's opinion of the modern Federal Whig party :

"Of that [the Federal Whig] party, TREACHERY is so favorite an instrument, that I have heard Mr. Burgess (Hon. Tristram Burgess) complain that they have used it even with him. **IT IS THEIR NATURE AND THEIR VOCATION.** I welcome the result of your election as a pledge that their chalice is returning to their own lips—they betrayed Mr. Burgess by not electing him to the Senate of the United States. Their own organ in Providence (the Providence Journal) charges the loss of his election to the House, upon their *treachery*. So will it, and so mote it always be—**THEY HAVE NO HONEST PRINCIPLE TO KEEP THEM TOGETHER**—their only cement is a SYMPATHY OF HATRED TO EVERY MAN OF PURER PRINCIPLE THAN THEMSELVES."—*J. Q. Adams's letter to Dutee J. Pearce, dated September 7, 1835.*

John Quincy Adams's opinion of the old Federalists, now composing the most respectable portion of the modern Whig party :

"A SEPARATION OF THE UNION was openly stimulated in the public prints, and a convention of delegates of the New England States, to meet at New Haven, was intended and proposed.

That their (the Federalists') object was, and had been for several years, a **DISSOLUTION OF THE UNION, AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SEPARATE CONFEDERATION**, he knew from unequivocal evidence, although not proveable in a court of law ; and that, in case of a civil war, the aid of Great Britain, to effect that purpose, would be as surely resorted to, as it would be indispensably necessary to the design."—*Nat. Intel. Oct. 21, 1827.—Article authorized by Mr. Adams.*

"That project, (the dissolution of the Union,) I repeat, had gone to the length of fixing upon a military leader for its execution ; and, although the circumstances of the times never admitted of its execution, nor even of its full development, I had yet no doubt, in 1808 and 1809, and have no doubt at this time, that it is the key to all the great movements of these leaders of the **FEDERAL PARTY** in New England from that time forward, till its final catastrophe in the Hartford convention."—*Mr. Adams's letter to the Boston Federalists, dated Dec. 30, 1828.*

General Harrison's opinion of Henry Clay :

"I will do my duty, even if Mr. Clay is to be benefited by it, from whom I have experienced only **UNGENEREOUS TREATMENT, IN REQUITAL FOR YEARS OF DEVOTED SERVICE.**"

General Harrison's letter to Mr. Brent, in the winter of 1841 :

"I have done him (Mr. Clay) many favors, but he has returned them all with the **BLACKEST INGRATITUDE.**"

Mr. George E. Badger's opinion of Henry Clay :

"Mr. Clay, of Kentucky, was one of the four candidates for President ; but, having the lowest number of electoral votes, was excluded from the House. The State from which he came had instructed her members, in the event which had then happened, to support General Jackson, but, under the influence of Mr. Clay, a man of intrigue, and of eloquence, of unbounded ambition, and of talents above mediocrity, these members, with those of other western States, voted for Mr. Adams, and his election was the result. Immediately after his elevation, Mr. Adams appointed Mr. Clay Secretary of State, in power and influence the second station of our government, and generally thought to be an introduction to the first.

"Between these two gentlemen there had been previously neither confidence nor affection ; and Mr. Clay had publicly expressed, in language not to be misunderstood, a disbelief of Mr.

Adams's political integrity and patriotism. How, then, are you to account for Mr. Clay's support of Mr. Adams, in opposition to the declared wishes of Kentucky? Mr. Clay, indeed, and his friends, have endeavored to put his choice on the ground of love of country—on his belief of Jackson's entire unfitness for the office. But though Mr. Clay had disapproved in Congress of General Jackson's conduct in the Seminole war, yet, in the very speech in which his disapprobation was expressed, he declared that General Jackson had shed much glory on our country, and that towards him he 'never had, and never could have, any other feelings than those of the most profound respect and the utmost kindness.' Why, then, did he desert the man who was the favorite of the nation—the choice, next to himself, of Kentucky—the man for whom he cherished the 'utmost kindness,' and 'most profound respect,' in order to give his support to one for whom he felt neither respect nor kindness, of whose patriotism he entertained (to say the least) strong suspicions, and against whom the voice of the nation, and especially of the State from which Mr. Clay came, had been distinctly expressed?

"Take the facts, and answer for yourselves—whether it be harsh or uncharitable to conclude that he voted for Mr. Adams in the expectation of being Secretary of State—and that this expectation decided his vote. Let the friends of Mr. Clay protest against the conclusion with whatever of earnestness they can press into the service, and the common sense of mankind will still find in his conduct the ground of serious suspicion. They may contend that there is not proof to convict him in a court of justice, and subject him to an ignominious punishment. If this were allowed, it will avail them nothing, for the inquiry is not about inflicting punishment on Messrs. Adams and Clay; it is about the propriety of continuing them in public stations of power and influence; and, with due submission, the difference is vastly important. We pity the miserable wretch dragged to the bar, for whom the scaffold or the whipping-post is in waiting; and the humanity of the law coincides with our own compassion in pronouncing that doubt shall be followed by acquittal; but to him who claims our confidence, probable suspicion is just ground of refusal; and many are the men dismissed by an acquittal from a court of justice, who, upon grounds which the law cannot notice, stand condemned before the tribunal of public opinion. Aaron Burr was acquitted—and rightly acquitted, too—for want of evidence; but think you he is a fit object to attract confidence?—is he entitled to support?

"Thus, then, as we conceive, it sufficiently appears that Jackson, the man of the people, was, at the last election, defeated, not upon any considerations of comparative merit between Mr. Adams and himself, but in order that Mr. Clay might be Secretary of State, and heir apparent to the Presidency. And can it be seriously contended that you ought, or that you properly can give your sanction to this apostacy from principle—your support to this ambitious project? Because Mr. Clay once forgot his duty, and imposed upon the nation a President whom the nation did not desire, ought you to forget your interests and your rights, offer a reward to treachery, and thus set an example fatal to the fair and equal operation of our constitution?"—*Address to the people of North Carolina in 1828, written by Mr. Badger.*

N. B.—Mr. Badger was Secretary of the Navy under General Harrison, and is now one of Mr. Clay's warmest supporters in North Carolina. What honest principle can bring such men together?

Another opinion of Henry Clay, expressed by the Hon. George E. Badger:

"You have seen the Secretary of State challenging to mortal combat a member of Congress for daring, in his place, on the floor of the Senate, to examine with freedom, and expose with boldness, the conduct of the Secretary. You have seen the same officer, forgetful of what belongs to his high station, ASSUME THE CHARACTER OF A TRAVELLING SPEECH-MAKER, and harangue public gatherings in Kentucky, Pennsylvania, and Virginia, boasting of his intrepidity and virtue, and discharging his malignity towards Jackson, sometimes in gross abuse, and sometimes in IMPIOUS APPEALS TO HEAVEN."

Same address to the people of North Carolina:

"Do we not now see this same Henry Clay, 'forgetful of what belongs to his high station, [aspirations,] assume the character of a TRAVELLING SPEECH-MAKER,' haranguing 'public gatherings' at New Orleans, Mobile, Savannah, and Charleston—sometimes, it has been said, on the SABBATH DAY—and for what purpose? None other than TO MAKE HIMSELF PRESIDENT! How degrading to the high office to which he aspires! How shocking to the sensibilities of every patriotic American!"

Opinion expressed by the Boston Atlas (the leading Whig paper of Massachusetts) of Henry Clay:

"We supported him [Clay] once for the Presidency, AND WOULD DO SO AGAIN, WERE

WE NOT, IN SO DOING, ALMOST SURE OF DEFEAT. BUT MR. CLAY IS DEFICIENT IN POPULARITY.

Mr. Clay's influence failed to sustain J. Q. Adams in the presidential chair. With all the efforts made to elect Mr. Clay himself in 1832, he succeeded in obtaining only *forty-nine* electoral votes; and in the election of 1836, himself and his friends were so well satisfied of his deficiency in popular favor, that they did not attempt to run him at all. IS NOT THIS DECISIVE EVIDENCE AS TO MR. CLAY'S POPULARITY?"—*The Atlas of Sept. 14, 1838.*

"That Mr. Clay is the chosen candidate of the aristocracy of the whig party, is unquestionable; and it is equally unquestionable that very earnest and zealous efforts will be made to impose him upon the whigs as their candidate. It is also certain that Mr. Clay is *not* the choice of the democracy of the whig party. Apart from other sufficient reasons, therefore, which we shall give hereafter, the very fact that Mr. Clay is the darling of the aristocratic whigs, or rather the very cause which makes him so, operates, in the nature of things, to prejudice him in the eyes of the democratic whigs, and to lead them to fix their choice upon some other candidate."—*The Atlas of Nov. 20, 1838.*

Opinion of Henry Clay, expressed by the Hon. Thomas Butler King, a leading whig of Georgia, in 1840:

"He (Mr. Clay) has recently hoisted the flag of a *fifty million bank*. This is his last great move for the presidency. He says, in language not to be misunderstood, to commercial and manufacturing interests of the North, 'Make me President, and I will give you a bank of fifty millions.' He was the father of the American system, and now seeks to be the father of a national bank. SUCH A PROGENY, LEAGUED WITH SUCH A PARENT, WOULD CONSOLIDATE THE UNION IN AN UNMITIGATED DESPOTISM, OR BREAK IT INTO FRAGMENTS."

HENRY CLAY IN FAVOR OF DIRECT TAXATION.

The following is an extract from a speech delivered by Mr. Clay in 1820, which will be found in the Life and Speeches of Henry Clay, published by Greeley & McElrath, of the New York Tribune, vol. 1, pages 146 and 147:

"Can any one doubt the *impolicy* of government resting *solely* upon the precarious resource of such a revenue? It is *constantly fluctuating*. It tempts us, by its enormous amount, at one time into extravagant expenditure; and we are then driven, by its sudden and unexpected depression, into the opposite extreme. We are seduced, by its *flattering promises*, into expenses which we might avoid; and we are afterwards *constrained, by its treachery*, to avoid expenses which we ought to make. It is a system under which there is a sort of *perpetual war* between the interest of the Government and the interest of the people. Large importations fill the coffers of Government, and empty the pockets of the people. Small importations imply prudence on the part of the people, and leave the treasury empty. In war, the revenue disappears; in peace, it is unsteady. On such a system the Government will not be able much longer to rely. We all anticipate that we shall have shortly to resort to some additional supply of revenue *within ourselves*. I was *opposed* to the total repeal of the INTERNAL REVENUE. I would have preserved certain parts of it at least, to be ready for emergencies such as now exist. And I am, for one, ready to exclude foreign spirits altogether, and substitute for the revenue levied on them a tax upon the spirits made within this country. No other nation lets in so much of foreign spirits as we do. By the encouragement of home industry, you will *LAY A BASIS OF INTERNAL TAXATION*, when it gets strong, that will be *STEADY AND UNIFORM, yielding alike in peace and war*. We do not derive our abilities abroad to pay taxes: that depends upon our wealth and industry; and it is the same, *WHATEVER MAY BE THE FORM* of levying contributions."

Mr. Clay's scheme is to make the tariff on foreign imports so high as to amount to *prohibition*—thus cutting off a supply of revenue from that source, and necessarily compelling a resort to DIRECT TAXATION.

HENRY CLAY'S PROFANITY.

The following statement, made in the Globe at the time the circumstance transpired, has never been contradicted by Mr. Clay, or any of his friends:

From the Washington Globe, February 7, 1838.

A statement of a scene in the House of Representatives, by a gentleman who will vouch for it, if necessary, and prove it by members whose names are given by him. The statement is as follows:

"Being called on, I deem it my duty to state that yesterday, in the House of Representatives, immediately after the Speaker gave the casting vote on the Mississippi election question, the Hon. Henry Clay, looking in the direction of the Speaker, exclaimed, 'Go home, God damn you! where you belong!' These epithets were uttered just as the Speaker gave his vote. Mr. Clay was standing near the western entrance to the Hall, and close to the bar of the House. I was standing within five feet of Mr. Clay. Mr. Chaney, of Ohio, sitting in his seat, was so near Mr. Clay that he heard his remark, and immediately committed it to writing. Mr. Gallup, of New York, was standing near, and heard the same remark very distinctly."

HENRY CLAY OPPOSED TO THE RIGHT OF SUFFRAGE.

"The last, though not least, instance of the manifestation of a spirit of disorganization [the attempt of the people to secure the right of suffrage] which I shall notice, is the recent convulsions in Rhode Island. That little but gallant and patriotic State had a charter, derived from a **BRITISH KING**, in operation two or three hundred years. * * * The President was called upon to interpose the power of the Union to preserve the peace of the State, in conformity with an express condition of the Federal Constitution. *I have as much pleasure in expressing my opinion that he faithfully performed his duty*, in responding to the call, as it gave me pain to be obliged to animadvert on other parts of his conduct."—*Speech of Mr. Clay, at Louisville, in the autumn of 1842.*

For this support of these principles, the Clay Club at Providence, composed entirely of "Algerines," or supporters of the old Charter Government, *unanimously* adopted the following preamble and resolutions, in which they declare that his opposition to the right of suffrage, which he manifested in his support of the Charter party, constituted one of "his strongest titles to their confidence and support:"

"Whereas Henry Clay took a decided stand in defence of the principles of law and order, during the late rebellion in Rhode Island; therefore,

"Resolved, That, in the judgment of this meeting, the conduct of Mr. Clay upon the Rhode Island question constitutes one of his strongest titles to the confidence and support of Rhode Island men."

Daniel Webster's opinion of protection.

"Equal delusions prevail in other parts of the country—as, for instance, the notion that the protection of manufactures is a thing peculiarly beneficial to those engaged in those pursuits. Far from it."

Daniel Webster's patriotism.

"I would not vote for this appropriation [for the defence of the country] if the enemy's cannon were battering down the walls of the Capitol."—*Daniel Webster's speech in the Senate, pending the difficulty with France.*

Comment by John Quincy Adams:

"The man who would be guilty of uttering a sentiment so unpatriotic, at a crisis like this, has but one step more to take, and that is—to join the enemy!"

Immorality and profligacy of Whig editors.

James Watson Webb, editor of the New York Courier and Enquirer, recently published the following of Horace Greeley, editor of the Tribune of the same city:

"We are not, directly or indirectly, interested in lands or stocks of Texas, to the amount of one cent, and this the organ of *Fourierism* [the Tribune] well knows. But the charge is quite as true, as is the pretence that *Fourierism* is not directly opposed to religion and morality, and not based upon the most indiscriminate and profligate intercourse of the sexes. The organ of such a scheme for demoralizing and degrading to the lowest depths of bestiality a whole people, is at liberty to coin and publish its falsehoods against us whenever it thinks it can make the operation profitable."

Remarkable Federal Whig sentiments, ancient and modern.

"The people of all nations are naturally divided into two sorts—the gentlemen and the simple-men—the latter signifying the common people, such as farmers, mechanics, and laborers; and the former, the richer portions, and these born of more noted families."—*John Adams.*

"I contend that the English Government is the most stupendous fabric of human wisdom."—*John Adams*.

"The POOR are destined to labor, and the RICH are qualified for superior stations."—*John Adams*.

"I have well considered the subject, and am well convinced that no amendments to the articles of confederation can answer the purpose of a good government, so long as the State Governments do in any shape exist."—*A. Hamilton*.

"I despair that any republican form of government can remove the difficulties that Greece and Rome encountered."—*A. Hamilton*.

"I believe the British Government to be the best model the world ever produced."—*A. Hamilton*.

"All political communities ought to be divided into the FEW and the MANY—the first are the RICH and the WELL-BORN, the other THE MASS OF THE PEOPLE."—*A. Hamilton*.

"The people are turbulent and changing; they seldom judge or determine right."—*A. Hamilton*.

"Nothing but a permanent body [of life legislators] can check the imprudence of democracy."—*A. Hamilton*.

"See the excellency of the British Executive. He is placed above temptation. Nothing short of such an executive [a King] can be efficient."—*A. Hamilton*.

"The second branch of the Legislature ought to be composed of men of GREAT AND ESTABLISHED PROPERTY; AN ARISTOCRACY! men who, from pride, support permanency. To make them completely independent [of the people,] they must be chosen for life. Such an aristocratic body would keep down the turbulence of democracy."—*Speech of Mr. Morris, a leading Federalist, in the convention that framed the Constitution*.

"Freeholders are, commonly speaking, persons of sober, frugal, and temperate habits, little disposed to abuse power, or forget right. But what is the character of the POOR? Generally speaking, vice and poverty go hand in hand."—*Judge Van Ness, a noted Federalist of New York*.

"Is there in human affairs an occasion of profligacy more shameless or more contagious than a GENERAL ELECTION? Every spring gives birth and gives wings to this EPIDEMIC MISCHIEF."—*Fisher Ames, a leading Federalist*.

"Our Constitution is no better than any other piece of paper, nor so good as a blank, on which a more perfect one could be written."—*F. Ames*.

"Our Federal Republic was manifestly founded on a mistake—on the supposed existence of sufficient political virtue in the people, and on the permanency and authority of public morals."—*F. Ames*.

"It seems strange that the founders of the Constitution did not make some regulation of the right of suffrage, so as to secure to men of property their due weight and influence in society; for it ought to be deemed a first principle in all free countries, that PROPERTY SHOULD GOVERN."—*A member of the Hartford Convention*.

"There is a tendency in the POOR to COVET AND SHARE THE PLUNDER OF THE RICH."—*Chancellor Kent, in the New York Convention*.

"That man who holds in his hands the subsistence of another, will always be able to control his will. Such a person will forever be the CREATURE of the one who feeds, shelters, clothes, and protects him. THIS CLASS OF PERSONS [laborers and all persons employed at wages] would be as SUBSERVIENT TO THE WILL OF THEIR EMPLOYERS AS PERSONS OF COLOR."—*Judge Spencer, in the New York State Convention*.

"Those who merely perform MILITARY SERVICE and labor on the roads, do not ordinarily compose that CLASS OF ELECTORS that can be deemed independent; and every man should be EXCLUDED FROM VOTING, who has not the capacity to give an IMPARTIAL and independent suffrage."—*[Rufus King, a distinguished federalist in the New York State Convention]*.

"They [the foreign emigrants] are men whose WANTS, if not whose VICES, have sent them from other states and countries, to seek bread by SERVICE, if not by PLUNDER."—*Elisha Williams, a distinguished federalist in the New York Convention*.

"The man who feeds, clothes, and lodges another, HAS A REAL AND ABSOLUTE CONTROL OVER HIS WILL. Say what we may, the man who is dependent upon another for his subsistence [i. e. gives his labor for his wages,] is not an independent man, and he will vote in subservience to the dictation of his employer."—*Judge Spencer, repeated in the New York Convention*.

"KNAVERY, associated with knowledge, is a MORE FIT DEPOSITORY OF POWER THAN HONEST IGNORANCE."—*National Intelligencer*.

"One argument we hope the Pennsylvania Convention will take from the experience of New York—not unduly to enlarge the right of voting. By making that right universal in this State, the consequence, as a general rule, has been, the throwing of the whole political power of the State into the hands of those who have neither stake in the community, nor knowledge to distinguish between the claims and characters of opposing candidates."—*N. Y. American, a whig paper*.

"Bad as was the character of Aaron Burr, his election in preference to Mr. Jefferson would have been a blessing to the country."—*N. Y. Com. Adv.*

"The GREAT MASS OF THE PEOPLE are, and always must be, very incompetent judges of the qualifications necessary for the chief magistrate of a great nation."—*N. Webster, a whig leader*.

"It would seem therefore to be the part of wisdom, to found government on property."—*Daniel Webster*.

"Men who have an interest in the soil only are allowed to vote in Rhode Island. Our elective franchise is so free, so unchecked, so heedlessly ruinous, that Americans are not rulers of their own land. Rhode Island has shown us the value of checks and restraints on this right of voting."
[*New York Star, a whig paper*].

"The representative should not be palsied by the will of his constituents."—*J. Q. Adams*.

"Neither prevention nor punishment is within our means—the self-governing people are not to be restrained by their own right impulses, and our system affords no substitute."—*N. Y. Amer.*

"We venture to assert, that a country cannot be well governed, without some more efficient agency of prevention than exists in ours."—*N. Y. American*.

"It is the dictate of benevolence and humanity to sell a poor man, at a sheriff's sale, into involuntary servitude, until he earns enough to pay the fine imposed by the court."—*Elisha Whittlesey, whig Congressman from Trumbull, Ohio*.

"It is useless to talk of the intelligence of the people, for the history of nations cannot present an example of such total want of intelligence as our country now affords."—"Sidney," (*Noah Webster*), in *New York Commercial Advertiser (whig)*.

"It is a fundamental mistake that the people may be governed, or will govern themselves, by REASON."—*A leading federalist in New York Commercial Advertiser*.

"If the appeals that may be made to the virtue, morality, and intelligence of the people, cannot prevail, MONEY CAN BE USED, and that will obtain votes and favor where all other arts and appliances are found abortive."—*Bicknell's Reporter, a whig paper*.

"From its nature, the influence of a bank will be allied to the aristocracy of wealth, and not to the democracy of numbers; and this is more especially the case with chartered banks, having great power. The late Bank of the United States was one of this description."—*London Bankers' Circular*.

"Upon this election depends the fate of the most influential and wealthy part of the community. It will probably decide whether those who have a tangible interest in the stability of government—in whose hands the whole capital of the country is concentrated—shall be reduced to the level of those who are possessed of nothing, or whether those possessed of nothing shall continue to control the destinies of this great nation."—*Circular of the New York whigs*.

"The fear of want will be best to overcome these (the poor man's) long-standing prejudices which have resulted in the present deranged state of those institutions, (the banks,) upon which are based the commercial interests of the country."—*Circular of the New York whigs*.

"As well might a BLACKSMITH attempt to mend a watch, as a FARMER to legislate. What mischiefs are sure to be enacted, when a man BORN TO NOTHING BUT THE PLOUGH tail, takes to LEGISLATING."—*Boston Courier, (a whig paper)*.

"FREE SUFFRAGE IS A CURSE TO ANY PEOPLE."—*Providence Journal, (a whig paper)*.

"Resolved, That for collecting and disbursing the public revenues, for facilitating and equalizing exchanges, and for furnishing a currency of uniform value, a NATIONAL BANK IS AND HAS BEEN (to the Government and to the people of the Union) A CONVENIENT, PROPER, AND NECESSARY INSTRUMENT; and, therefore,

"Resolved, That such an institution, with the safeguards and improvements in its organization which experience has suggested, OUGHT TO BE ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS."
—*Resolutions adopted by the late North Carolina Whig convention*.

MR. CLAY'S DEMOCRACY.

"If the gentlemen WILL NOT ALLOW US TO HAVE BLACK SLAVES, THEY MUST LET US HAVE WHITE ONES; FOR WE CANNOT CUT OUR FIREWOOD AND BLACK OUR SHOES, AND HAVE OUR WIVES AND DAUGHTERS WORK IN THE KITCHEN."—*Henry Clay's speech, February 15, 1819, on the Missouri question.*

MR. CLAY'S OPINION OF FARMERS.

"Agriculture needs no protection. The habits of farmers, generation after generation, pass down a long track of time, in perpetual succession, without the slightest change; and the ploughman who fastens his plough to the tail of his cattle, will not own there is any improvement equal to his."

OPINIONS OF MR. CLAY, EXPRESSED BY DISTINGUISHED MEN.

Jackson's opinion of Mr. Clay.

"Under such circumstances, how contemptible does this demagogue appear, when he descends from his high place in the Senate, and roams about the country retailing slanders upon the living and the dead."—*Andrew Jackson.*

Webster's opinion of Mr. Clay.

"Henry Clay has too many heresies about him ever to gain my support."—*Daniel Webster.*

Jefferson's opinion of Mr. Clay.

"Henry Clay is merely a splendid orator, without any valuable knowledge from experience or study, or ANY DETERMINED PUBLIC PRINCIPLES, founded in political science, either practical or theoretical."—*Jefferson.*

Randolph's opinion of Mr. Clay.

"He is talented, but corrupt. He stinks and shines, and shines and stinks, like a rotten mackerel by moonlight."—*John Randolph.*

An honest Whig rebuking his party for lying about a national bank in 1840, and for misrepresentation and dishonesty in general.

Extract from a letter of the Hon. Willoughby Newton, of the House of Representatives, to the Committee of the late Whig Convention which assembled in Richmond, Va.

"On reviewing the events of the last four years, no impartial observer can fail to perceive that the disasters which have befallen the Whig party, and cast a blight over the prosperity of the country, have resulted, in a great measure, from the want of candor and fairness in avowing and maintaining our principles, especially in Virginia. We commenced the canvass of 1840 under most discouraging circumstances. The Whigs proper were in a small minority throughout the Union. A party had been formed out of the discordant elements then in opposition to the administration of Mr. Van Buren. Our eagerness for success induced us to extend our nets, so as to embrace birds of every feather. We not only asked no questions of those who offered themselves as allies for the war, but our own convention at Richmond actually repudiated the leading principles and measures of the Whig party. We thus entered the campaign—a discordant mass, some fighting for principle, and others for freedom, and animated by but one common principle—that of opposition to the administration of Mr. Van Buren. We had a long and arduous contest, and achieved what we supposed to be a glorious triumph. But what advantages have we reaped from our labors? The fruits of all our toils have turned to ashes on our lips; and we may truly exclaim with Pyrrhus, 'one more such victory, and we are undone.' The treachery of the present Executive, and of some of his prominent allies, derived countenance and support from the Whig address of 1840; and impartial history may find it difficult to determine whether the convention is most to be censured for its indiscretion in putting forth such an address, or those very scrupulous politicians for availing themselves of it, as a pretext for abandoning their party.

"We enter the canvass of 1844 under far different and higher auspices. In 1840, we were weak and discordant. We are now strong; and not only united in purpose, but in principle. We have been purged, by the fire of persecution, of the dross that dimmed our brightness; and the Whig party is now *pur metal*, seven times refined in the furnace.

"Let me adjure the convention not to repeat the errors of 1840, which have been the fruitful source of all our woes. Let them remember that 'honesty is the best policy,' both in public and private life. I think I know something of the Virginia character. Our people are liberal and ingenuous; they will tolerate an honest difference of opinion, sincerely entertained and candidly expressed; but they abhor even the appearance of dissimulation. Let the convention,

therefore, boldly avow the principles of the party—advocate a national bank *eo nomine*, and without circumlocution—a tariff with proper discrimination for the reasonable protection of our great domestic interests—and such other measures as they may deem essential to the purity of the Government, and the prosperity of the country.

“I particularize a national bank and a discriminating tariff, because I deem them the great measures to be carried out by the Whig administration, destined, I trust, soon to come into power;—measures which, in my deliberate judgment, are inseparably connected with the prosperity of the whole country, and especially of the southern States.”

A dishonest and disreputable party stealing honest and respectable names.

“Democratic Whig nomination for President, Henry Clay.”

“Democratic Whig Young Men’s Convention.”—*All the Federal-Whig papers.*

Thomas Jefferson’s opinion of Federalism, alias modern Whiggery, in all its phases.

“THE HARTFORD CONVENTION, THE VICTORY OF ORLEANS, THE PEACE OF GHENT, PROSTRATED THE NAME OF FEDERALISM. ITS VOTARIES ABANDONED IT THROUGH SHAME AND MORTIFICATION; AND NOW CALL THEMSELVES REPUBLICANS. BUT THE NAME ALONE IS CHANGED, THE PRINCIPLES ARE THE SAME.”

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF A COMMITTEE OF THE DEMOCRATIC MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.

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